

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-7, 9-10, 15 and 17-20 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103:

Claims 1-5, 9-10 and 15-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Zhao et al (hereinafter “Zhao”). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

For a reference to anticipate a claim, each element must be found, either expressly or under principles of inherency, in the reference. Each element of the claimed invention is not found in Zhao. For example, Zhao fails to disclose “wherein the mobile terminal sends to the home agent information about the type of networks to which the mobile terminal is currently connected, the available bandwidth for each type of network to which the mobile terminal is currently connected, and the mobile host’s care-of address applicable for each type of network to which the mobile terminal is currently connected, the home agent selecting an appropriate network and its applicable care-of address based on the available bandwidth for each type of network to which the mobile terminal is currently connected” as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similar (but not necessarily identical) comments apply to independent claims 9, 10 and 15.

Through the above-identified claim feature, exemplary embodiments of the present invention relate to a mobile terminal sending information to a home agent about the types of networks to which it is connected, the available bandwidth for each type of network, and the mobile host's care-of address applicable for each type of network. Fig. 6 and page 9, line 8 to page 10, line 30 of the originally-filed application support these features. The mobile terminal then selects one of the networks based upon the bandwidth available for each type of network so that the selected network's applicable care-of address to the mobile terminal can be used. This feature is supported by, for example, page 11, lines 14-30 of the originally-filed specification. For example, the "best" network may be selected by comparing bandwidths of the networks and selecting the network with the highest bandwidth. The mobile host's care-of address applicable to the selected network can then be used.

In contrast to the home agent selecting a network and its applicable care-of address based on the available bandwidth for each type of network to which the mobile terminal is connected, Zhao discloses "Packets are intercepted by the home agent and are tunneled to the care-of address selected based on the packets' destination address, source address and source port (emphasis added)." (See the caption of Fig. 5 of Zhao). A mobile host may choose to receive the packets belonging to a given flow on any of its interfaces by sending a flow-to-interface binding to its home agent. This flow-to-interface binding specifies the mobile

host's care-of address(es) that the home agent should use to forward packets belonging to the flow. A home agent stores the received flow-to-interface binding in an extended binding list. Thereafter, the home agent receives a packet addressed to a mobile host, searches its extended binding list for an entry matching the corresponding fields of the packet (destination address, source address and source port) and forwards the packet to the associated care-of address designated in the extended binding list.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 over Zhao be withdrawn.

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Zhao in view of Kikinis (U.S. '410). Since claims 6-7 depend from claim 1, all of the comments made above with respect to Zhao apply equally to these claims. Kikinis fails to remedy the above-described deficiencies of Zhao. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 17-20 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. Applicant respectfully submits that each of claims 17-20 is allowable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to its respective base claim.

TITMUSS et al.
Application No. 09/868,221
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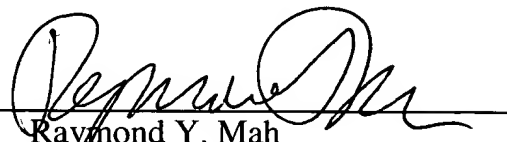
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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